

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-13
EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-11 CEQ-01 TRSE-00
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O 031336Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3471

FOLLOWING SENT NEW DELHI FROM BOMBAY DATED MAR 3,
1978 BEING RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 0552

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENGR, IN
SUBJECT: FUEL STORAGE AT TARAPUR

REF: NEW DELHI 3404

1. DURING MY TALK WITH SETHNA THIS AFTERNOON ON HEAVY
WATER (REPORTED SEPARATELY) HE ADMITTED THAT HE WAS
DEEPLY DISTURBED OVER REMARKS IN PARLIAMENT EARLIER
THIS WEEK ON TARAPUR FUEL STORAGE PROBLEM. HE SAID
PRIME MINISTER HAD NOT FOLLOWED HIS BRIEF CLOSELY AND DISCUSSION
HAD BECOME SO MUDDLED AS TO RESULT IN SERIOUS DIS-
TORTIONS. HE THOUGHT WORST PART OF PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION
WAS SUGGESTION THAT FUEL STORAGE PROBLEM RESULTED FROM A VIOLATION
OF U.S.-INDIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT BY U.S. HE SAID
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FORTHRIGHTLY THAT, OF COURSE, "THERE WAS NO QUESTION
OF A VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT." SECONDLY, PRIME
MINISTER HAD NOT BROUGHT OUT COOPERATIVE MEASURES
THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN PURSUING OVER PAST
TWO YEARS TO RESOLVE THE FUEL STORAGE PROBLEM.
SETHNA SHOWED ME THE BRIEF HE HAD PREPARED FOR
PRIME MINISTER THAT STATED THAT IAEA AND U.S.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HAD ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY AT NO COST TO GOI WHICH IS NOW WELL ADVANCED AND IS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN DESIGN OF NEW RACKS WHICH CAN BE INSTALLED IN GOOD TIME TO ALLEVIATE THE STORAGE PROBLEM.

2. SETHNA AGREED THAT SOME METHOD WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND TO PUT RECORD STRAIGHT OR NEWSPAPERS WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD ON INACCURACIES IN THE PARLIAMENTARY RECORD. HE BELIEVES THAT UNLESS STEPS ARE TAKEN TO ALLEVIATE PARLIAMENTARY CONCERN THERE WOULD CERTAINLY BE CONFRONTATION ON MARCH 14 WHEN HIS PARLIAMENTARY BOARD MEETS. HE THOUGHT THAT PASSIONS WOULD BE COOLED SOMEWHAT IF NRC IN THE MEANTIME ISSUES LICENSE FOR TARAPUR RESUPPLY. HE BELIEVES MUCH OF CONFUSION IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE AROSE BECAUSE RESUPPLY ISSUE WAS INJECTED INTO DISCUSSION OF SPENT FUEL STORAGE PROBLEM. IT IS ON THE FUEL SUPPLY QUESTION THAT GOI, OF COURSE, BELIEVES WE ARE NOT LIVING UP FULLY TO THE TERMS OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT.
COURTNEY UNQUOTE
GOHEEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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